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General Assembly

Fifty-second Session

Official Records

40th plenary meeting
Thursday, 30 October 1997, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Udovenko . . . . . (Ukraine)

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Agenda item 15

Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs

(b) Election of eighteen members of the Economic and Social Council

The President: This morning the General Assembly will proceed to the election of 18 members of the Economic and Social Council to replace those members whose term of office expires on 31 December 1997.

The 18 outgoing members are Australia, Belarus, Brazil, Colombia, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, India, Jamaica, Luxembourg, Malaysia, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Poland, South Africa, the Sudan, Thailand, Uganda and the United States of America.

I should like to remind members of the Assembly that, as of 1 January 1998, the following States will continue to be represented on the Economic and Social Council: Argentina, Bangladesh, Canada, Cape Verde, the Central African Republic, Chile, China, Cuba, the Czech Republic, Djibouti, El Salvador, Finland, France, Gabon, the Gambia, Germany, Guyana, Iceland, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Lebanon, Mexico, Mozambique, Nicaragua, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Zambia. The names of these 36 States should therefore not appear on the ballots.

In accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 2847 (XXVI) of 20 December 1971, and taking into account the number of States which will remain members of the Council after 1 January 1998, the 18 members should be elected as follows: five from African States, four from Asian States, two from Eastern European States, three from Latin American and Caribbean States and four from Western European and other States. The ballot papers reflect this pattern.

I should like to inform the Assembly that the number of candidates, not exceeding the number of seats to be filled, receiving the greatest number of votes and a two-thirds majority of those present and voting will be declared elected. In the case of a tie vote for a remaining seat, there will be a restricted ballot limited to those candidates which have obtained an equal number of votes.

May I take it that the General Assembly agrees to this procedure?

It was so decided.

The President: In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, the election shall be held by secret ballot, and there shall be no nominations.

Regarding candidatures, I have been informed by the Chairmen of the regional groups that, for the five vacant seats from among the African States, the five endorsed candidates are Algeria, the Comoros, Lesotho, Mauritius and Sierra Leone.

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* Reissued for technical reasons.

For the four vacant seats from among the Asian States, there are six candidates, namely, India, Malaysia, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar and Viet Nam.

For the Eastern European States, there are three candidates for two vacant seats: Belarus, Georgia, and Poland.

For the three vacant seats from among the Latin American and Caribbean States, there are five candidates: Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, Peru and Saint Lucia.

The Group of Western European and other States has endorsed four candidates for four vacant seats: Belgium, Italy, New Zealand and the United States of America.

In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, we shall now proceed to the election by secret ballot.

Ballot papers marked "A", "B", "C", "D" and "E" will now be distributed. I request representatives to use only those ballot papers and to write on them the names of the States for which they wish to vote.

A ballot paper containing more names from the relevant region than the number of seats assigned to it will be declared invalid. Names of Member States on a ballot paper which do not belong to that region will not be counted at all.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Silva (Angola), Mrs. Dorjee (Bhutan), Mr. Tovar Morillo (Dominican Republic), Mr. Jerónimo (Portugal) and Mrs. Kimliková (Slovakia) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 10.45 a.m. and resumed at 12.10 p.m.

The President: The result of the voting is as follows:

Group A — African States

Number of ballot papers:	175
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	175
Abstentions:	2
Number of members voting:	173
Required two-thirds majority:	116
Number of votes obtained:	
Algeria	171
Sierra Leone	167
Comoros	166
Lesotho	163
Mauritius	163
Benin	2
Cameroon	1
Liberia	1
Niger	1
Nigeria	1
Sudan	1

Group B — Asian States

Number of ballot papers:	175
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	175
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	175
Required two-thirds majority:	117
Number of votes obtained:	
Viet Nam	137
Pakistan	126
India	111
Malaysia	104
Oman	104
Qatar	85
Yemen	4
Bahrain	2
Indonesia	1
Uzbekistan	1

Group C — Eastern European States

Number of ballot papers:	175
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	175
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	174
Required two-thirds majority:	116
Number of votes obtained:	
Belarus	120
Poland	109
Georgia	107
Ukraine	5
Bulgaria	1

Group D — Latin American and Caribbean States

Number of ballot papers:	175
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	175
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	174
Required two-thirds majority:	116
Number of votes obtained:	
Colombia	118
Brazil	115
Peru	103
Guatemala	96
Saint Lucia	61
Panama	3
Venezuela	2
Bolivia	1
Honduras	1

Group E — Western European and other States

Number of ballot papers:	175
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	175
Abstentions:	6
Number of members voting:	169
Required two-thirds majority:	113
Number of votes obtained:	
Belgium	164
Italy	164
New Zealand	162
United States	157
Greece	1
Netherlands	1

Having obtained the required two-thirds majority, Algeria, Belarus, Belgium, Colombia, the Comoros, Italy, Lesotho, Mauritius, New Zealand, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, the United States of America and Viet Nam were elected members of the Economic and Social Council for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1998.

The President: I congratulate the States which have been elected members of the Economic and Social Council.

The following seats remain to be filled: two from among the Asian States, one from among the Eastern European States and two from among the Latin American and Caribbean States.

We shall therefore proceed to the first restricted ballot.

The second round of balloting shall be restricted to the four States from among the Asian States that were not elected but obtained the largest number of votes in the previous ballot — namely, India, Malaysia, Oman and Qatar; to the two States from among the Eastern European States that were not elected but obtained the largest number of votes in the previous ballot — namely, Georgia and Poland; and to the four States from among the Latin American and Caribbean States that were not elected but obtained the largest number of votes in the previous ballot — namely, Brazil, Guatemala, Peru and Saint Lucia.

This is in accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure.

Ballot papers marked "B", "C" and "D" will now be distributed. May I ask representatives to write on the ballot papers the names of the States for which they wish to vote.

Ballot papers marked "B", for the Asian States, will be declared invalid if they contain the names of States other than India, Malaysia, Oman or Qatar, as well as if they contain the names of more than two States.

Ballot papers marked "C", for the Eastern European States, will be declared invalid if they contain the names of States other than Georgia or Poland, as well as if they contain the names of more than one State.

Ballot papers marked "D", for the Latin American and Caribbean States, will be declared invalid if they contain the names of States other than Brazil, Guatemala, Peru or Saint Lucia, as well as if they contain the names of more than two States.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Silva (Angola), Mrs. Dorjee (Bhutan), Mr. Tovar Morillo (Dominican Republic), Mr. Jerónimo (Portugal) and Mrs. Kimlíková (Slovakia) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 12.30 p.m. and resumed at 1.15 p.m.

The President: The result of the voting is as follows:

Group B — Asian States

Number of ballot papers:	175
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	175
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	175
Required two-thirds majority:	117
Number of votes obtained:	
India	111
Malaysia	94
Oman	83
Qatar	56

Group C — Eastern European States

Number of ballot papers:	175
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	175
Abstentions:	3
Number of members voting:	172
Required two-thirds majority:	115
Number of votes obtained:	
Poland	98
Georgia	74

Group D — Latin American and Caribbean States

Number of ballot papers:	175
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	175
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	175
Required two-thirds majority:	117
Number of votes obtained:	
Brazil	119
Peru	99
Guatemala	78
Saint Lucia	42

Having obtained the required two-thirds majority, Brazil was elected a member of the Economic and Social Council for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1998.

The President: I congratulate the State that has been elected a member of the Economic and Social Council.

There remain two seats from among the Asian States, one from among the Eastern European States and one from among the Latin American and Caribbean States to be filled.

In accordance with the rules of procedure, we should continue with the series of restricted ballots. However, in view of the late hour, I propose that we postpone further balloting until 3 p.m.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.